GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2296
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2017
Consumption of Junk Food
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government has taken note that sales and consumption of junk food is increasing in the country particularly in and around the schools, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware that consumption of junk food is increasing the risk of various diseases among people including children, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to impose restrictions on the sale and consumption of junk food in the country particularly in and around the schools, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (d): 'Junk Food' has not been defined under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has requested all States/UT's and the Ministry of Human Resource Development to consider issuing appropriate directions to schools and colleges for withdrawing foods high in saturated fat and carbonated drinks from canteens and promoting healthy food habits. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issued guidelines for making available wholesome, nutritious, safe and hygienic food to school children in India on 12.10.2015 whereby the availability of most common HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) Foods in schools has been restricted/limited. Further, to address holistically the issue of High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) in food and associated health risks, FSSAI constituted an Expert Group that included eminent experts from the fields of medicine, nutrition, and dietetics representing well known medical research and academic institutions.The aforesaid guidelines and report of the expert group have also been uploaded on the website of FSSAI.